

Hamilton Field, Sentry Station
(Facility No. 550)
Main Entrance Road at B Street
Novato
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2398-AE

HABS
CAL
21-NOVA,
IAE-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

**HAMILTON FIELD
Sentry Station
(Facility No. 550)**

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IAE-

HABS No. CA-2398-AE

Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Sentry Station
Facility No. 550 (Main Entrance Road at B Street)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; B: 544720/4212220;
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

Significance:

The building is significant as an example of the application of an important architectural trend (Spanish Colonial Revival) adapted to reflect California's mission heritage in a dramatic departure from traditional military architecture. This vernacular building was the original gate house, located at the main entrance to the base in the early 1930s. It originally served as a station for gate security personnel and was the focal point of a semi-circular entrance area with formal landscaping and seating benches, which have since been removed.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

Description:

The original base sentry station is one-story, with a rectangular plan and measures 10 feet by 19 feet. It has a concrete slab foundation and concrete floor pad. The building has an end-gabled roof clad with Mission tiles and terra cotta four-inch diameter pipe roof vents in the gable ends. An extension on the front roof is supported by heavy timber posts with a timber lintel. The walls are constructed of 12-inch hollow tile bricks covered with smooth-faced cementitious stucco. The central part of the structure is open, flanked by small windowed rooms. Windows are single light frosted wire glass. After the main gate was established in its current location, the interior of the building was converted to a restroom to serve the nearby base picnic area.

Historical Context:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

Designed by Nurse's staff, the sentry house was completed on March 17, 1934, for \$930.02. Although the simplest of buildings in design, the tile roof and stucco finish are elements that are reflected in many of Nurse's original buildings.

Sources:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398).

The line drawn sketches were drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

Project Information:

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

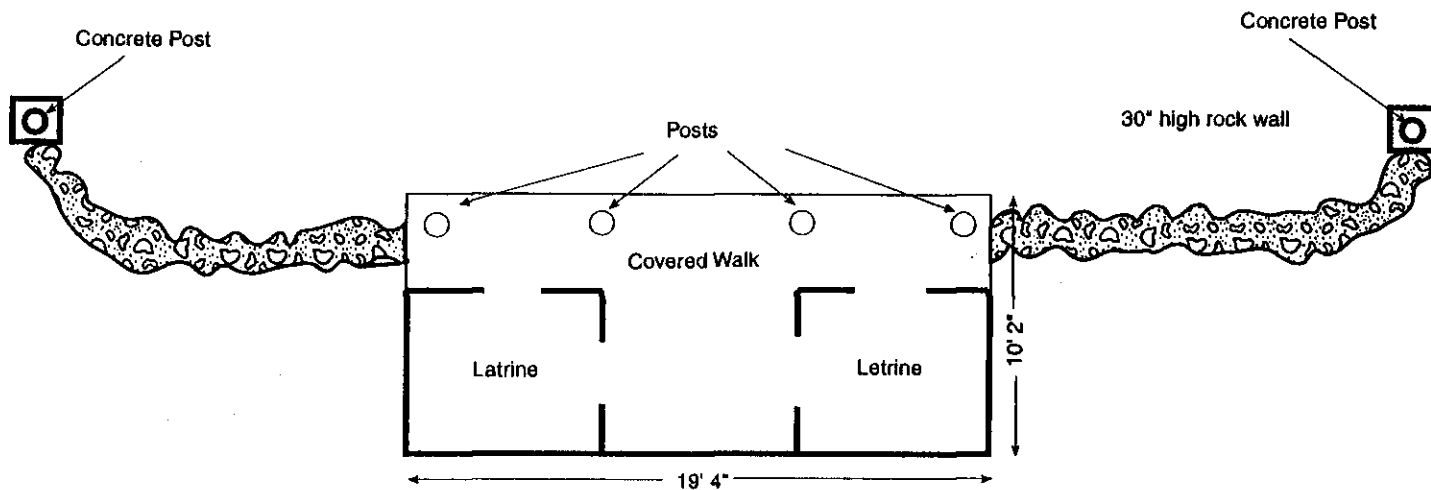
As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

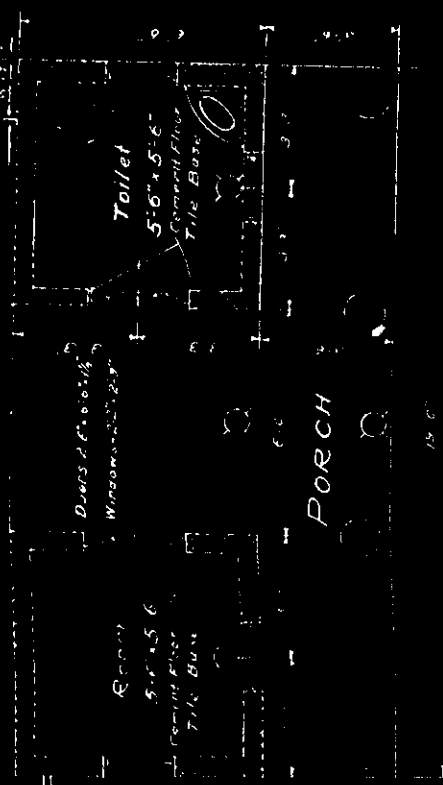
Text prepared by: Mary L. Maniery/Judith Marvin
Title: Historian/Architectural Historian

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Sentry Station
(Facility No. 550)**

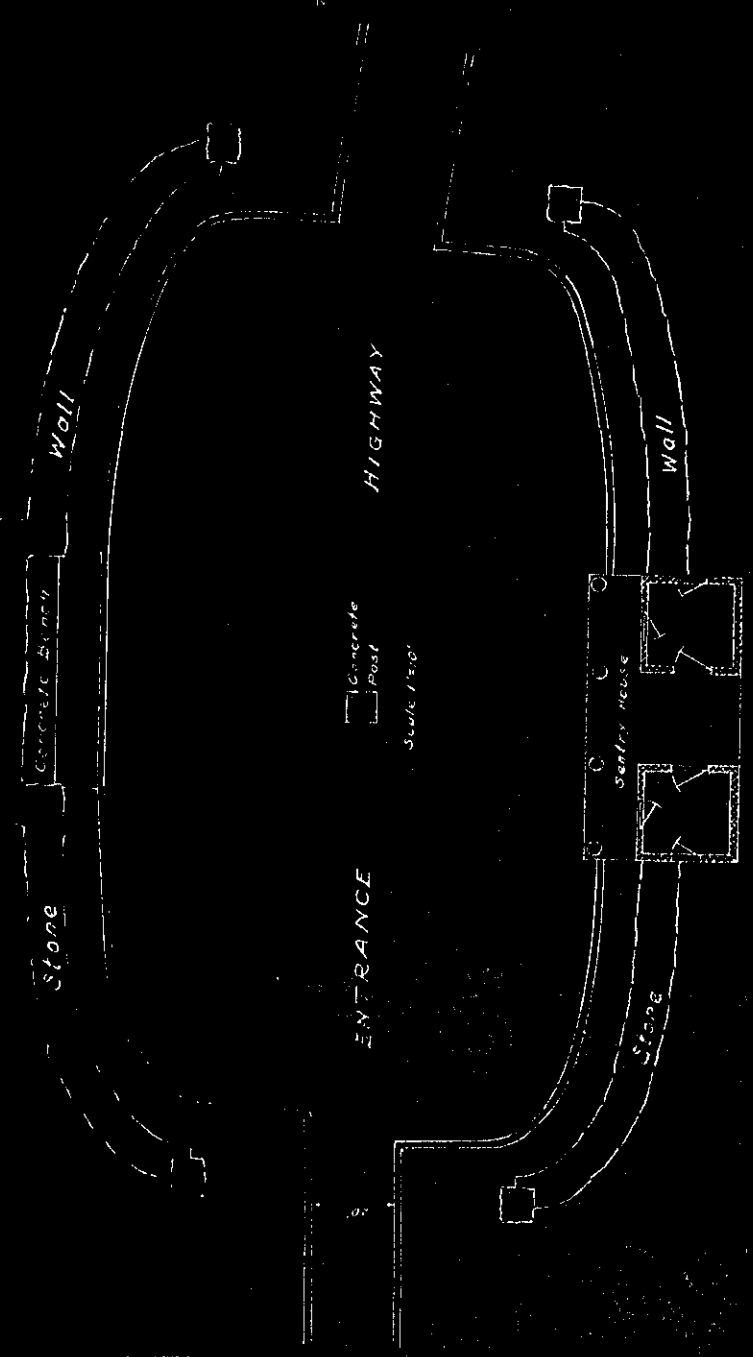
HABS No. CA-2398-AE Page 3

Affiliation: PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC., Sacramento, California
Date prepared: July 1995 Photography prepared by: David De Vries
Affiliation: Mesa Technical, Berkeley, California
Date of photographs: November 1994





SENTRY HOUSE
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"



SECTION THRU BENCH
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

SECTION THRU HOUSE
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

Flower Through Continuous
to Wall

WAR DEPARTMENT OFFICE CONSTRUCTING QUARTERMASTER HAMILTON FIELD, CALIF.		SENTRY HOUSE	
Drawn BEE	Traced HEE	Checked JAS	Scale 3/16" = 3'
GCMG Plan 6754-326		Post Plan 373-16-314	
H.B. NURSE Capt. Q.M.C.		Const. Quartermaster	
Bldg No 85			